

# Into the (Charlie) Void



By [Martin Myers](#)

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Charl van Blerk, aka Charlie Void, has immense talent and wears many creative hats. You could say he is skilled in the politics of dancing.



Image supplied: Charlie Void

On the one hand, he serves on the cultural commission in the Western Cape and on the other as the artist Charlie Void, who has a deep love for disco-influenced songs and is inspired by Diana Ross and Troye Sivan.

On one of his previous singles called *Snort It* he even poked fun at Lindsay Lohan.

His latest work, *Downtown* was released a few weeks ago.

I caught up with Charlie last week...

## ■ ***What is your job description?***

That's not a straightforward answer. I'm the CEO of a tech company, called ParkShare, I run a local charity called The Turn Around Project, and of course, I serve on the Cultural Commission for the Western Cape Government and sing as Charlie Void.

## ■ ***What does music mean to you?***

Music was the first thing that felt I could emotionally lean on for support. I found purpose in creating and it remains the ultimate form of self-expression. Even if you aren't a creator, you can find such personal meaning in music you never wrote.

## ■ ***My music is about...***

I grew up in the early 2000s and was raised on '80s hits. I think the music industry lacks that glam-pop and synth sound that music it used to have.

Where are the cheesy unforgettable melodies? That's what I try to do with my music. I try to make straightforward dance hits.

▣ ***What is your motto?***

Value your time in the world. Money is replaceable, but time is finite.

▣ ***Fame...***

Takes many different forms, but I can tell you what it personally means to me. Fame is recognition of your work. It's the industry marker for "I must've done something right!"

▣ ***Retirement will happen when...***

I've always been a busy person and someone that enjoys working on projects, so I don't think I'll ever retire.

▣ ***I don't do...***

Afrikaans music

▣ ***I would love to co-write with...***

Stevie Nicks

▣ ***Where do you go for inspiration to create?***

Inspiration always strikes in the car for me. So, I guess I go anywhere four wheels will take me!

▣ ***What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?***

I find it so striking when I meet a fan and get to see the impact, I made on them. I always feel so shocked that I was able to stir up those powerful emotions in someone.

▣ ***The song you must do during every show?***

*You and Me*

▣ ***My heroes are...***

From a musical perspective, I'd have to say Lady Gaga! No one else combines art, fashion, technology and music in quite the same way!

▣ ***My style icon is...***

David Bowie

▣ ***Which living person do you admire most and why?***

Kris Jenner. Anyone who can turn nothing into a billion-dollar brand has my respect.

▣ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

My orthopedic pillow... I'm an old man, I know...

▣ ***It's your round; what are you drinking?***

Anything with gin in it!

▣ ***Dream gig to do?***

One that doesn't pay in exposure!

▣ ***What makes you stand out?***

I have a unique sounding voice. It often has a metallic sheen to it!

▣ ***Any nicknames?***

Charlie or Cha Cha

▣ ***Pick five words to describe yourself?***

Edgy, fun, ambitious, funny, friendly

▣ ***What are you streaming?***

*Stranger Things* Season 4

▣ ***Greatest movie ever made?***

I don't watch movies really, but I would say my favourite series are *The Crown* and *Family Guy*.

▣ ***What book are you reading?***

*Development as Freedom* (Political Science Book)

▣ ***What song changed your life?***

*Princess Die* by Lady Gaga (Unreleased)

▣ ***Who do you love?***

My best friend, more than anything.

■ ***What is your favourite word?***

Octogenarian

■ ***Top of your bucket list?***

To travel on a sailboat off the coast of Sardinia

■ ***Your greatest achievement?***

Being a part of the DA Young Leaders Programme

■ ***What do you complain about most often?***

Being discriminated against because of my age.

■ ***What is your biggest fear?***

Being mediocre

■ ***Happiness is...***

When I'm staring down the bottom of my glass and I catch a glimpse of my best friend staring back at me through the bottom of her glass.

■ ***On stage, I tend to...***

Forget to make facial expressions.

■ ***The best life lesson you have learned?***

Other people don't get to decide your worth or your validity. Only you get to decide.

■ ***What has been your favourite journey so far?***

It might seem silly and childish. but I enjoy taking the train to nowhere just for fun.

### ▣ ***Do you do charity work, and if you do – what do you do?***

I run The Turn Around Project which aims to help communities in the Cape Flats area of Cape Town organize a network of accredited neighbourhood watches, creating a safer community, while empowering residents by educating them on how to fully utilise the resources, made available by the City of Cape Town, to serve the community.

### ▣ ***Wishes and dreams?***

I want to be happy and at peace. My dreams are to never be ordinary or have an ordinary life. To always have an adventure in life!

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